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Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1540 (2004)

Note verbale dated 10 August 2011 from the Permanent Mission of Croatia to the United Nations addressed to the Chair

The Permanent Mission of the Republic of Croatia to the United Nations presents its compliments to the secretariat of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1540 (2004) and has the honour to transmit herewith the report of Croatia on the implementation of Security Council resolution 1540 (2004) (see annex).

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Annex to the note verbale dated 10 August 2011 from the Permanent Mission of Croatia to the United Nations addressed to the Chair

Response of the Republic of Croatia to the request for additional information issued by the Chair of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1540 (2004)

The suppression of the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and their delivery systems is a response to global security threats. Croatia considers that compliance with multilateral, non-proliferation agreements and participation in informal non-proliferation regimes is of crucial importance for successful non-proliferation, which can be achieved only through the continuous improvement of the national system and wide-ranging international cooperation.

Croatia is a party to all relevant international treaties and conventions, such as the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material, the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty, the Biological Weapons Convention, the Chemical Weapons Convention, the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons, the Ottawa Convention and the Convention on Cluster Munitions. Croatia participates in all export control regimes (the Wassenaar Arrangement, the Nuclear Suppliers Group, the Australia Group and the Zangger Committee). It has applied for membership in the Missile Technology Control Regime. Croatia has adhered to the Hague Code of Conduct against Ballistic Missile Proliferation. It has joined international initiatives, such as the Proliferation Security Initiative and the Global Initiative to Combat Nuclear Terrorism.

The Law on Trade of the Republic of Croatia stipulates that import/export licensing for certain goods shall be applied for the following reasons: for national security purposes; in the implementation of international treaties or conventions; for purposes of protecting life, the health of human beings, animals, plants and the environment; in the protection of public morality; and for controlling the export of works of art and certain precious metals. On the recommendation of the Ministry of Economy, Labour and Entrepreneurship, the Croatian Government adopted a decree on goods subject to import and export licensing. For the purpose of better control of trade in arms and military equipment, in 2009, the Republic of Croatia introduced the Tracker Programme. In the preceding period, all State bodies participating in the process of issuing licences for the above-mentioned goods were networked with the Ministry of Economy, Labour and Entrepreneurship, which houses the main database. Also, in July 2004, the Law on Export of Dual-Use Items was adopted.

On 2 July 2008, Croatian Parliament adopted the Act on the Amendments to the Law on Export of Dual-Use Items. The Act has been in force since 26 July 2008. The Amendments to the Law on Export of Dual-Use Items refer to the regulation of the transit of dual-use items, the provision of brokering services and technical assistance associated with dual-use items and the prescription of penalties for offenders of the Act when national or foreign political interests of the Republic of Croatia are at risk. With the Amendments to the Law, the commitments related to Security Council resolution 1540 (2004) on the non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction are fulfilled. Actually, the Council member countries have to adopt

the regulations that will enable the prevention of the proliferation of nuclear, chemical or biological weapons and items that may be used for the transport of such weapons.

On 1 July 2011, Croatian Parliament voted for the Act on the Trade Control of Dual-Use Items during its 23rd session. This Act allows the implementation of Council Regulation (EC) No. 428/2009, setting up a Community regime for the control of exports, transfer, brokering and transit of dual-use items. Implementation of the Regulation is binding and directly applicable to member States of the European Union. The Act will come into force upon Croatia's accession to the European Union.

Croatia has established a complete legislative and institutional framework for the prevention of the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, dual-use goods and the systems for their delivery.

Croatia participates in thematic training, workshops and meetings, thus contributing to the improvement of the national system and creating a network of partner countries through increasing international cooperation and capacity-building. The international exercise Adriatic Shield 08, organized by Croatia in Rijeka and Opatija in May 2008 under the Proliferation Security Initiative was also devoted to preventing the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction. With the support of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), the Republic of Croatia organized in 2009 in Split a workshop on developing the National Strategy against Proliferation of Weapons of Mass Destruction.

In order to increase the efficiency of supervision, Croatia pays special attention to the upgrading of regional capacities, particularly in the light of the implementation of Security Council resolution 1540 (2004). The implementation of this resolution is a continuous task for all State institutions which significantly contribute to security in the region. Together with Romania and the NATO Euro-Atlantic Partnership Council, in June 2008, Croatia organized a workshop for the countries in the region on the topic of implementing resolution 1540 (2004), in the Regional Arms Control Verification and Implementation Assistance Centre. From 14 to 17 June 2010, in Split, the United Nations organized a workshop on the implementation of the resolution. The countries of the South-East European Cooperation Process participated in this workshop, whose aim was the exchange of experience with a view to improving national capacity for supervision over export processes for the purpose of further implementation of Security Council resolution 1540 (2004). The workshop was intended for civil servants in charge of border control, customs and preparation of relevant legislation.

In accordance with Security Council resolution 1540 (2004), Croatia has been continuously working on raising awareness of the importance of the control of dual-use goods. Croatia will continue to undertake and fulfil obligations regarding the resolution.

Regarding the prevention of nuclear terrorism, the Republic of Croatia participates in the global nuclear detection architecture project of the Global Initiative to Combat Nuclear Terrorism. The Republic of Croatia cooperates with other countries, exchanges relevant information and coordinates activities to enhance capacity to combat nuclear terrorism.

For the purpose of further improving the system for the control of the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, Croatia has decided to start a project for the preparation of the National Strategy against Proliferation of Weapons of Mass Destruction. At the Government session of 26 June 2009, a decision on the establishment of an inter-ministerial working group for the preparation of the National Strategy against Proliferation of Weapons of Mass Destruction and of the Action Plan for the implementation of this Strategy was adopted. The Inter-Ministerial Working Group includes representatives from the Office of the President, the Government, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and European Integration, the Ministry of Defence, the Croatian Navy, the Ministry of the Interior, the Ministry of the Sea, Transport and Infrastructure, the Ministry of Justice, the Ministry of Finance, the Customs Administration, the Ministry of Economy, Labour and Entrepreneurship, the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Rural Development, the Ministry of Health and Social Welfare, the State Office for Nuclear Security, the Croatian Institute for Protection against Radiation, the National Protection and Rescue Directorate, the State Attorney's Office, the Military Intelligence Agency and the Security Intelligence Agency. The ultimate goal is to prepare and adopt the Croatian National Strategy against Proliferation of Weapons of Mass Destruction by the end of 2011 and to make this Strategy a model according to which other countries in similar geopolitical environments might prepare their own national strategies.

During 2010 and 2011 (Zagreb, 14-16 December 2010; Split, 13-15 June 2011), two national exercises aimed at evaluating the draft text of the National Strategy were held. Also, on 9 and 10 April 2011 in Cavtat, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and European Integration in cooperation with the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons organized a workshop on the Chemical Weapons Convention, protection against chemical weapons and prevention of terrorist use of weapons of mass destruction-related materials.

Regarding effective implementation of the National Strategy, Croatia will take steps in order to better coordinate activities between bodies involved in combating the spread of weapons of mass destruction. To that effect, Croatia is planning to establish (until the end of 2011) a coordination mechanism that will monitor the implementation of the Strategy and its Action Plan.